

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03704 251038Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
IO-14 OES-07 EB-08 EUR-12 MCT-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01
COME-00 /119 W

-----041288 251103Z /16

R 251002Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3704

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IR, PGOV, ZP
SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER: GULF SECURITY, OIL
PRICES, INTERNAL AFFAIRS

IN UNDATED INTERVIEW BY KUWAITI JOURNALIST, PRINTED JUNE 25
IN KUWAITI DAILY ARAB TIMES, IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR
REPORTEDLY MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

A. GULF SECURITY: IRAN IS "TIRED OF HAVING TO INITIATE
DISCUSSIONS FOR A DEFENSE PACT TO PROTECT THE GULF." "WE
WANT A PACT...WE PUT FORWARD IDEAS FOR THIS...BUT FROM SOME
COUNTRIES WE DIDN'T RECEIVE REPLIES." "WE DID NOT SPECIFY
A DEFENSE PACT OR ANY READY-MADE FORMULA...ALL WE WANTED WAS
A GENERAL AGREEMENT TO TALK ABOUT IT." THE REPORTS THAT
IRAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA PLAN A TRILATERAL DEFENSE PACT IS
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"PRESS FICTION." "AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ONE SHARED BY ALL
COUNTRIES."

B. OMAN AND AFGHANISTAN. "WE WILL GO ON HELPING THE SULTAN
(OF OMAN) AS AND WHEN HE ASKS FOR HELP." REGARDING AFGHANISTAN, AS
LONG AS THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT "MAINTAINS AN INDEPENDENT POLICY
AND DOES NOT INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,

THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THEY HAVE IS NOT OUR BUSINESS."

C. OIL PRICES. "THE PRICE OF OIL SHOULD REFLECT AND BE AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO THE COST OF PRODUCING ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY." IRAN SUPPORTS A PRICE FREEZE BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT OIL GLUT AND THE PROSPECTIVE EFFECT OF A PRICE RISE ON THE EUROPEAN "RECESSION."

D. INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RECENT DISORDERS, WHICH ARE "OVER AND DONE WITH," DERIVED FROM THE SHAH'S LIBERALIZATION POLICY, WHICH LED PEOPLE TO EXPECT "TOO MUCH TOO QUICKLY," THE PRESENCE OF "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" CONNECTED WITH FOREIGN TERRORISTS GROUPS, AND THE SUDDEN RISE IN BOTH NATIONAL WEALTH AND PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS, THE LACK OF RAPID FULFILLMENT OF WHICH CREATED A CLIMATE OF DISSENT. MINORITY GROUPS HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL PRIVILEGES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CURTAILED THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF "JEWS AND OTHER GROUPS"... "NOT BY FORCE OF LAW BUT BY ADVICE." THE SHAH'S CRITICISM OF THE RASTAKHIZ AND ITS GENERAL SECRETARY SHOWS MERELY THAT THE SHAH "IS A PERFECTIONIST."
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SECURITY, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRICES, GULFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT03704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-0136
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780622/aaaaatgf.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b301782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2216887
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERVIEW OF IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER: GULF SECURITY, OIL PRICES, INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN UNDATED INTERVIEW BY KUWAITI JOURNALIST, PRINTE
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, ENRG, IR, ZP, (AMOUZEGAR, JAMSHID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b301782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014